(c) Details of Central Sector Projects to be implemented during the Ninth Five Year Plan are not available, as the Ninth Five Year Plan is yet to be approved.

Statement

Central Sector Project under Implementation in the Kutch District of Gujarat during the Eighth Five Year Plan

1. Expansion of Kandla Fertiliser Plant:

Indian Farmers Fertilisers Cooperative (IFFCO) under the administrative control of the Department of Fertiliser, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, is implementing expansion scheme of its fertiliser pland located at Kandla in Kutch District of Gujarat. The capital cost of the project is Rs. 212.20 crore and the project is scheduled to be completed by October, 1999. No expenditure has been incurred till 31.3.1997.

2. LPG Import Facility at Kandla:

At present, LPG is being imported into the country through Bombay and Visakh ports. In view of the Constraints of LPG import facilities at these ports and limitation for augmenting their capacities, there was a need to develop new LPG import facilities through major ports of India. In view of the above, LPG import facilities at Kandla and Mangalore are under implementation for meeting the LPG deficits in North West and Southern sectors respectively. The objective of this project is to construct LPG import terminal at kandla in Gujarat with annual capacity of 6 lakh mt. The project was approved during April, 1993 with an estimated cost of Rs. 160.82 crore. An amount of Rs. 134.70 crore has been spent as on December, 1996.

3. Construction of Cargo Berth at Kandla Port:

The project consists of construction of 8th cargo berth of a length of 208.75 m, at Kandla Port, including back up facilities like pave storage, fire fighting pipeline, water supply pipelines, electricity etc. and to handle additional cargo of 4 lakh tonnes. The project was approved in June, 1994 with an estimated of Rs. 38.82 crore. An amount of Rs. 0.51 crore has been spent on the project as on December, 1996.

4. Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS):

The scheme was announced on 23rd December, 1993 and has been under the implementation of Department of Programme Implementation. Under the scheme, Rs. 1 crore per year is released in respect of each MP. As regards Kutch District, there is one Lok Sabha MP and Rajya Sabha MP who have opted for Kutch District. Funds to the tune of Rs. 305 lakhs each were released during the Eigth Plan in respect of these two MPs.

5. Border Area Development Programme (BADP):

Border Area Development Programme is being implemented in Kutch and Banaskantha Districts of Gujarat since the year 1993-94. The total allocation from the year 1993-94 to 1996-97 was Rs. 2356.40 lakhs, against which an expenditure of Rs. 1589.97 lakhs has been incurred.

Report of the Committee headed by Member of Planning Commission on Japanese investment

3123. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a committee headed by a Member of Planning Commission recently visited Tokyo to explore the possibility of attracting higher Japanese investments in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the committee has submitted any report and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The Member in-charge of Industry & Minerals Division in the Planning Commission, Dr. G. Thimmaiah, who is also Chairman of the India Committee on the India Japan Study Committee

(IJSC) had visited Tokyo to attend the 28th joint meeting of the India Japan Study Committee held on 19-20 December, 1996 alongwith some other Members of the Committee.

(c) and (d) A copy of the Report as statement is enclosed (*see* below) the IJSC discusses matters relating to economic, social cultural and other bilateral issues to strengthen the mutual relationship. Subsequent to this visit, a team of eight Japanese media persons visited different states of India to acquaint themselves with the developments in India and project them in Japan.

Statement

Report on the 28th Meeting of the India-Japan Study Committee held in Tokyo on 19-20 December, 1996

The India-Japan Study Committee (IJSC) meeting was scheduled to be held this year in Japan. Accordingly the meeting was fixed on 19th & 20th December, 1996. Four members of the Committee went to Tokyo for attending this meeting viz. Dr. G. Thimmaiah, (Chairman), Smt. Devaki Jain (Member), Shri Arjun Asrani, (Member) and Mr. B.D. Jethra, (incharge Member-Secretary).

2. The Committee had done preparatory work before visiting Japan by holding internal meetings and also by meeting the representatives of various Ministries concerned with economic reforms. A meeting was also held in the Chamber of the Principal Secretary to PM to get certain rules and procedures sorted out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health.

3. On 18th December, 1996 the Committee met the former Prime Minister, Mr. Morihiro Hosokawa and former Foreign Minister, Mr. Taro Nakayama who is also the Chairman of the Research Commission on Foreign Affairs, LDP. The Committee also met Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Member of the House of Representatives. Mr. Fukuda is the son of former Prime Minister of Japan and one of the most important Members of the House of Representatives. These meetings were informative and created interest and trust in India.

4. The meeting of India-Japan committee commenced on 19th December, 1996, with the reading of messages of the Prime Minister of Japan and the Prime Minister of India for the success of the meeting. It was followed by remarks by Mr. Toshiki Kaifu, the President of the Japanese Study Committee and former Prime Minister of Japan. Mr. Kaifu stressed the need for developing Asian identity not merely in social development but also in technological development. He assured assistance for teaching Japanese language in India in order to facilitate more closer economic inter-action between India and Japan.

5. Dr. G. Thimmaiah, Chairman of the India Study Committee, presented his key note address in which he highlighted the areas in which Japanese investors would be welcomed. He also stressed the need for India and Japan working together in international, political and economic fora for mutual benefit. He updated the meeting on further economic reforms in India and scope for Japanese investment. He also urged for opening up of Japanese market for agricultural exports from India.

6. Mr. Eijiro Noda, Chairman of the Japanese Study Committee in his remarks stressed the need for continued cooperation between India and Japan and assured the cooperation of the JSC in promoting Japanese investment in India.

7. This was followed by presentations by the Deputy President of the Tokyo-Mitsubishi Bank and others from Japanese side. They all raised various difficulties which the Japanese investors and businessmen face in India. They mentioned that while the policy of liberalisation has been introduced at the macro level, at the ground level there are still many hurdles. Some of them sought clarification on the demographic scene, land ownership, banking policy, size of the middle class, the potential of emerging rural market in India etc. Dr. G. Thimmaiah and Smt. Devaki Jain provided satisfactory clarifications.

8. The meeting was resumed on 20th December, 1996. In this meeting certain psychological factors which inhibited the Japanese investment in India were discussed and after the presentation by Mr. Arjun Asrani from Indian side and Prof. Chei Nakane from

the Japanese side, it was decided to discontinue any further discussions on psychological distance. Smt. Devaki Jain in her presentation emphasized the importance of joint ventures between India and Japan in the field of social issues and empowering institutions. She illustrated this with examples of Indo Japanese collaboration between women academics and women's organisations-establishing Asian identity in the social areas as the basis for business collaboration reflecting former Prime Minister Kaifus sentiments. The Japanese members welcomed the idea of such areas of cooperation and information sharing.

9. There was suggestion by Mr. Sei, Member-Secretary of Japan Study Committee, to provide more detailed statistical information on Indian economy, both macro and micro at the national as well as state level. It was suggested that the Member-Secretary of IJSC will send information about the printed documents available in India which can be purchased by Mr. Sei. It may be noted in this context that interest in India on the part of Japanese businessmen has grown very significantly in recent months and that Mr. Sei is constantly under pressure to give talks on India and supply information. While large Japanese companies have their own officers in India, it is medium and small scale Japanese companies who lack adequate information regarding India. The Committee therefore suggests that the India Investment Centre should prepare such literature and supply it to Japanese businessmen periodically.

10. There was also detailed discussion on further liberalisation of visa facilities, improvement of hotel and other infrastructure facilities for the benefit of Japanes tourists. These suggestions were well appreciated by the Indian side. The meeting ended with clear appreciation of each others' point of view.

11. The two-day meeting ended with optimistic note on the possible flow of Japanese investment into India. It was stressed that since economic liberalisation and reforms are continued by the present government, the Japanese investors should come on large scale to invest in India. There were clear indications that Japanese investors and businessmen are poised to go to India.

12. The IJSC issued a joint statement in the evening of 20th December, 1996, and also addressed a press conference in which Japanese newspaper representatives were present. The main points of the joint statement were reported in Japanese newspapers.

13. There was a suggestion that Indian government should make efforts to take ashes of Subhash Chander Bose which are preserved in a Buddhist temple in Tokyo. But this issue was not allowed to be discussed at the meeting as it involved complex political issues. Instead Dr. G. Thimmaiah accompanied by Shri B.D. Jethra visited the Buddhist temple in which the ashes are kept and had discussion with the Temple Priest with the help of Japanese interpreter. Mr. Noda, Chairman of the JSC was also present.

14. White the Committee was deliberating certain developments took place in Lima, (Peru) where terrorists held hostages in Japanese Embassy Dr. Thimmaiah conveyed the sympathy of the Indian members to the Government of Japan on this issue.

15. The arrangements for the visit and meeting of the IJSC were made in Tokyo by the Indian Embassy. His Excellency the Ambassador Shri Kuldip Sahdev, Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Jaishankar, and the First Secretary, Shri Krishan Kumar had made very good arrangements. They provided all needed help and assistance to the Committee. They also participated in the meeting. The Committee would like to place on record its appreciation of their services. The Indian Embassy in Tokyo has done exemplary work in promoting Japanese interest in India. Their efforts deserve appreciation and encouragement from the side of the Government of India.

16. The Committee on its way back visited Hong Kong and met a few NRIs. The Counsel General in Hong Kong Ms. Veena Sikri was also present. The Chairman of the IJSC, Dr. G. Thimmaiah explained to the NRIs about the recent statements of the Prime Minister of India relating to the investment by the overseas Chinese in China and how he expects similar investments by overseas Indians in India's development. As usual NRIs representatives only sought clarifications.

17. The IJSC feels that Japanese people are evincing more interest in economic relations with India in future. The Committee learnt that at many as 140 Japanese companies and organisations are participating in the India International Engineering Trade Fair to be held in New Delhi from February 8, 1997, where Japan will be "partner country". Many high level Japanese business as well as Japanese Parliamentary delegation are expected to visit India around that time. Even before that the Foreign Minister of Japan, Mr. Ikeda, is visiting India in the middle of January, 1997.

18. Japan has got large surplus foreign reserves which they can use for helping India. As a matter of fact when India faced foreign exchange crisis in 1991, it was Japan which helped India. Therefore, now the Government of India should promote more economic relations between India and Japan. Our Embassy in Japan was facing some difficulties in getting visas for researchers and journalists which have to be cleared by the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs. This process should be accelerated. It would be better to create separate cell in the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs and make them "fast tracks" for processing the requests of Japanese investors, researchers, journalists and tourists.

19. The earlier Chairman of the IJSC Mr. Vasant Sathe had promised to arrange for a visit of about 10 media persons from Japan to India. This promise has not been kept up. The present Chairman, Dr. G. Thimmaiah has written to the Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism to bear the cost of the visit of the media persons. This should be expedited and Indian Embassy in Japan should be asked to select the right media persons for visiting India and reporting latest developments which are taking place in India. This will further beest the image of India and encourage Japanese investors to invest in Indian.

20. It was decided that the next meeting of the IJSC should be held in India some time in the month of September, 1997.

G. Thimmaiah
Chairman
India Japan Study Committee.

Steering Committee on Integrated Development of Himalayan Region

3124. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Steering Committee on Integrated Development of Himalayan Region has been set up;

(b) if so, the terms of reference thereof;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "States dictum irks Plan body" which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 5th April, 1997;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) by when the said Committee would be finalising its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms of reference of the Steering Committee are given below:

(i) to review and monitor the progress of implementation of the plans and programmes in consultation with concerned State with specific reference to development of the Himalayan Region.

(ii) to identify academic, NGOs and other institutions which are involved with development of the Himalayan Region and mobilise their efforts in a synergetic manner for the development of the Himalayan Region and for protection of the ecology of the region.

(iii) to suggest funding mechanism to met the requirement of the developmnet programmes.

(iv) to prepare periodic reports as necessary on the progress of the implementation of the measures recommended by the Steering Commitee.

(c) Yes, Sir.